

**ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES
IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to the eligibility of secondary school students to participate in certain school activities.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides that a school, school district, or association may not prohibit a student from participating in an interscholastic activity:
 - based on the student's transfer to a school or enrollment at the student's school of residence under certain circumstances;
 - based on the student's enrollment in a school other than the student's school of residence; or
 - because the student's parent does not reside within the school's attendance area;
- ▶ provides that a school, school district, or association may prohibit a student from participating in an interscholastic activity because the student transferred schools under certain circumstances; and
- ▶ defines terms.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53A-11-1501, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53A-11-1501** is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 11. STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS

Part 15. Secondary School Interscholastic Activities

53A-11-1501. Eligibility for secondary school interscholastic activities.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Association" means an organization that governs or regulates a student's participation in an interscholastic activity.

(b) "Attendance area" means an area established by a local school board from which students are assigned to attend a certain school.

(c) "Interscholastic activity" means an activity within the state in which the students that participate:

(i) are in grades nine through 12; and

(ii) represent a school in the activity.

(d) "Qualifying year" means:

(i) for a student transferring between schools pursuant to the requirements of Section 53A-2-207, the school year that begins in the August or September immediately following the submission of an application for admission to a school in accordance with Section 53A-2-207;
or

(ii) the school year that begins in the August or September immediately following the student's enrollment at the student's school of residence for a student:

(A) transferring from a school to the student's school of residence;

(B) transferring from a private school to the student's school of residence; or

(C) that attended school from home prior to enrolling at the student's school of residence.

(e) "School" means a public school.

(f) "School of residence" means the school to which a student is assigned to attend based on the student's place of residence.

(2) Except as provided in Sections 53A-1a-519, 53A-2-214, and 53A-11-102.6, a school, school district, or association may not prohibit a student from participating in an interscholastic activity during a qualifying year because:

(a) except as provided in Subsection (3), the student transferred between schools or

63 participated in an interscholastic activity at another school during the prior school year if:
64 (i) the student:
65 (A) submitted an application for admission to the school for the qualifying school year
66 in accordance with Section 53A-2-207 between December 1 and July 31 prior to the qualifying
67 school year; and
68 (B) received written notification of acceptance of the application described in
69 Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A) on or before July 31 prior to the qualifying school year;
70 (ii) the student is accepted for late enrollment to the school for the school year prior to
71 the qualifying school year; or
72 (iii) the student:
73 (A) transfers from a school to the student's school of residence; and
74 (B) enrolls for the qualifying school year at the student's school of residence on or
75 before July 31 prior to the qualifying school year;
76 (b) the student enrolls at the student's school of residence on or before July 31 prior to
77 the qualifying school year;
78 (c) the student enrolled in a school other than the student's school of residence; or
79 (d) the student's parent does not reside within the school's attendance area.
80 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a), a school, school district, or association may
81 prohibit a student from participating in an interscholastic activity based on the student's transfer
82 between schools if the school, school district, or association can prove that the student was
83 recruited to transfer by:
84 (a) an employee of a school or school district; or
85 (b) a coach of an interscholastic activity.